Answer Key

1. A
2. E
3. C
4. A
5. A
6. E
7. A
8. E
9. D
10. D
11. C
12. E
13. D
14. B
15. D
16. C
17. A
18. C
19. C
20. A
21. A
22. E
23. B
24. C
25. C
26. B
27. D
28. A
29. B
30. A
31. C
32. D
33. E
34. D
35. A
36. D
37. C
38. E
39. D
40. E
41. D
42. D
43. A
44. D
45. A
46. C
47. E
48. A
49. E
50. B
51. E
52. A
53. E
54. A
55. A
56. A
57. B
58. A
59. E
60. E

**2009 Exam - Question 3:** In the United States Congress, the majority party exerts a substantial influence over lawmaking. However, even when one party has a numerical majority in each chamber of the United States Congress, there is no guarantee that legislation supported by that majority party will be passed by both chambers. Rules of each chamber independently influence the likelihood that legislation will pass in that chamber; legislation passed by one chamber is not always passed by the other.

* Describe two advantages the majority party in the United States House of Representatives has in lawmaking, above and beyond the numerical advantage that that majority party enjoys in floor voting.
* Describe two differences between House and Senate rules that may make it likely that legislation may pass in one chamber but not in the other.
* Explain how the differences identified in the second bullet can lead to the passage of a bill in one chamber but not in the other

**2003 Exam - Question 1:** Presidential approval ratings fluctuate over the course of each presidential administration.

* Identify two factors that decrease presidential approval ratings, and explain why each factor has that effect.
* Identify two factors that increase presidential approval ratings, and explain why each factor has that effect.

**2008 Exam - Question 1:** Congressional reapportionment and redistricting are conducted every ten years. When redistricting is conducted, politicians often engage in gerrymandering.

* Define congressional reapportionment and explain one reason why it is import to states.
* Define congressional redistricting.
* Explain two goals of politicians when they gerrymander during redistricting.
* Describe two limits that the United States Supreme Court has placed on congressional redistricting.

**2005 Exam - Question 1:** The judicial branch is designed to be more independent of public opinion than are the legislature or the executive. Yet, the United States Supreme Court rarely deviates too far too long from prevalent public opinion.

* Describe two ways in which the United States Supreme Court is insulated from public opinion.
* Explain how two factors work to keep the United States Supreme Court from deviating too far from public opinion.

1. A. Choosing which bills are heard first. Each committee has a majority party chairperson influencing the action that happens in committees.

B. Senate has unlimited debate time, filibustering. Senate may hold and delay the hearing of a bill after it was passed in the house. The senate may add nongermane additions to the bill

C. Filibustering can kill a bill by delaying it too much. Senate majority leader can choose to not hear a bill. Senate may add ridiculous or other information or clauses to a bill so that it will not be passed.

2. A. Wars that include death (people support wars for the most part until a soldier dies, at that point it begins to be perceived as unnecessary.) Inefficiency in passing bills or improving the nation (after the honeymoon stage of presidency, presidents often are unable to get bills passed or have major effects on legislation, because of this the people think that he is doing a bad job and he will lose support.)

B. Good international relations (Wars in which there are few to no deaths are widely supported, people will always support the troops.) The passing of legislation (generally in the honeymoon stage presidents accomplish a lot and many people support them.)

3. A. Dividing out congressional (not senate) seats to states after the census. This is important to states because more seats equals more influence in Congress. Changes the number of electoral votes of the states

B. Dividing House/Congressional (not senate) district lines.

C. Enhance political party’s strength. Discourage opposition to the party. Support a friend’s political career. Support incumbency.

D. Equal population. Cannot be based on race. Compact districts. Protect communities of interest. Lines must be connected. Cannot discourage minority voting.

4. A. No terms, no worrying about reelection. They are in theory nonpartisan, appointed by president, approved by senate. Justice’s cannot be impeached based upon an unpopular decision

B. Supreme Court Justices are appointed by the president who was popularly elected, and he will generally choose justices that view the constitution similarly to himself. Public opinion shapes the laws of the nation and those are the laws that the Justices interpret, so the justices need to know the public opinion of those laws in order to make their decisions.